Program

NATURAL RESOURCES MAPPING AND STUDIES OF FLORISITICS AND PHYSIOGNOMY AT FLAG PONDS NATURAL AREA, CALVERT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Prepared by
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Submitted to

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COASTAL ZONE
INFORMATION CENTER

QK 63 .H46 1990

, Grasse

CONTRACT SYNOPSIS

This report was prepared to satisfy the requirements of the proposal (Attachment A) submitted to the Calvert County Department of Planning and Zoning on May 8, 1990. As stated in the proposal, the goal and objectives of the project were:

Goal

To acquire natural resources data necessary to objectively access impacts of development in Flag Ponds Natural Area, Calvert County, Maryland.

<u>Objectives</u>

To prepare 1" = 200' scale natural resource plates for Flag Ponds Natural Area including (1) topography with existing development, (2) soils, (3) slope, (4) wetlands, (5) 100 year floodplain and drainage, (6) black-and-white leaf-on and leaf-off aerial photography, and (7) major plant communities.

To describe the floristics and physiognomy of major plant communities at Flag Ponds Natural Area.

To establish a permanent plot system at Flag Ponds Natural Area.

METHODOLOGY

Methods for preparing natural resource plates and describing floristics and physiognomy are described in the proposal (Attachment A).

SUMMARY OF RESULTS AND FINDS

Natural Resource Plates

The following prime source material, at a scale of 1" = 200', was obtained for use in preparing the natural resource plates:

- 1. Soils,
- 2. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Wetlands Inventory wetlands,
- 3. Black-and-white leaf-on aerial photography dated March 1990,
- 4. Black-and-white leaf-off aerial photography dated August 1988.

Using the prime source information, the original base map for the park, and results of the survey of floristics and physiognomy, the following natural resource plates were prepared:

- Park base map with neat line, map title, scale, and north arrow,
- 2. Slope,
- Composite map showing major soil groups (upland, alluvial, unclassified, and coastal), vegetation/habitat types, and water regime,
- 4. Locations of permanent plots,
- 5. Direction of major drainage and approximate 100 year floodplain.

Descriptions of Floristics and Physiognomy

A total of 136 man-hours were spent setting-up and inventorying 30 permanent plots (Table 1). During the field work 53 herbaceous species were noted (Table 2). Of these, 13 were identified only to genus because they were not flowering during the site visits. Two species, Aster sagittifolius and Lemna trisulca, are considered by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Forest, Park and Wildlife Service, Maryland Natural Heritage Program, as highly rare in Maryland. The latter species is also listed as State Endangered. Aster sagittifolius occured on plot J-10 in strata B whereas Lemna trisulca occured on plots G-2, G-4, H-3, H-4, I-5, J-7, and J-8 in strata A. Frequency (%) [100m;/n where m = total number of plots on which the ith species occurs, and n = total number of plots sampled (15)] and relative frequency (%) [100m; /Zm;] for each herbaceous species are presented by strata [A = elevations < 7.62 meters; B = elevations > 7.62 meters] in Table 3.

A total of 50 species of trees [a woody stem > 6.4 meters tall], shrubs [a woody stem or stems < 6.4 meters tall], and vines were noted during the plant inventory (Table 4). (number/hectare) [y /an where y = shrubs tallied for the ith species on n plots; a = plot area in hectares (0.0016 hectares); n = total number of plots sampled (15)], relative density (%) [100y_|/Σy;], and importance value [relative frequency + relative density/2] are presented by strata for shrubs in Table Basal area (meters square/hectare) $[Fx_i]/n$ where F = 2 meters square/hectare; x; = trees tallied for the ith species on n points; n = total number of points sampled (15)], relative basal area (%) [100x $'_1/\Sigma x'_1$], density (number/hectare) [y'_1 /an where y'_1 = trees tallied for the ith species on n plots; a = plot area in hectares (.031416)], relative density (%), frequency (%), relative frequency (%), importance value (%) [relative basal area + relative density + relative frequency/3], and quadratic average average diameter breast height (centimeters) [\frac{14R^2Fx_1}{Y_1} where R = 10 meters] are presented for trees by strata in Table 6. Also

Table 1.

Permanent plot coordinates, strata occupied (A= lowland, B= upland, see text), and dates established at Flag Ponds, Calvert County, Maryland, 1990.

Q.

Plot Number	Strata	Date Established
B-5	В	11 May
C-5	В	11
C-6	В	
E-5	В	23 Apr
E-6	В	11
F-3	В	24 Apr
F-4	В	23 Apr
F-5	В	11
G-2	A	2 Jun
G-4	A	II .
H-3	A	II .
H-4	A	11
H-7	B	23 Apr
H-8	В	н
H - 9	В	11
H-10	В	11
I - 5	A	11 May
I-6	A	11
I-7	A	***
I-8	В	23 Apr
I-10	В	24 Apr
J - 5	A	11 May
J-7	A	2 Jun
J-8	A	11
J-10	В	24 Apr
K-6	A	11 May
K-7	A	2 Jun
K-8	A	1 Jun
K-9	A	-
L-9	A	9 Sep

^{*}Table 2.

List of herbaceous plants inventoried on permanent plots, Flag Ponds Nature Park, Calvert County, Maryland, 1990.

Latin Name

Allium sp. Ammophila breviligulata Arisaema sp. Arisaema atrorubens Arisaema triphyllum Aster sp. Aster sagittifolius Athyrium platyneuron Caltha palustris Carex sp. Cenchrus tribuloides Ceratophyllum demersum Cryptotaenia canadensis Dentaria diphylla Desmodium nudiflorum Digitaria sp. Diodia teres Equisetum sp. Erigeron canadensis Eupatorium sp. Euphorbia maculata Fragaria virginiana Galearis spectabilis Galium sp. Galium circaezans Hibiscus moscheutos Impatiens capensis Lathyrus japonicus Lemna sp. Lemna minor · Lemna trisulca Lycopodium obscurum Menispermum canadense Mitchella repens . Oxalis sp. Phragmites australis Podophyllum peltatum Polygonum persicaria Polystichum acrostichoides Ranunculus sp. Ranunculus arbortivus Ranunculus septentrionalis Saururus cernuus Scirpus sp. Sporobolus sp. Symplocarpus foetidus Tovara virginiana Typha angustifolia

Typha latifolia

Viola sp.

Common Name

Wild Garlic

American beachgrass

Indian Turnip Jack-in-the-pulpit Jack-in-the-pulpit Aster Arrow-leaved Aster Ebony spleenwort Marsh marigold Sedge Dune sandbur Honewort Wild chervil Two-leaved toothwort Naked-leaved tick-trefoil Crabgrass Rough buttonweed Scouring rush Horseweed Thoroughwort Eyebane Wild strawberry Showy orchis Cleavers bedstraw Wild licorice Rose mallow Spotted touch-me-not Beach pea Duckweed Smaller duckweed Star duckweed Groundpine Canada moonseed Twin-berry Wood-sorrel Wild reed May-apple Lady's thumb Christmas fern Buttercup Kidney-leaved Crowfoot Swamp buttercup Water dragon Bulrush Dropseed Skunk cabbage Virginia knotweed Narrow-leaved cat-tail Common cat-tail Violet

Table 2. Continued.

Viola conspera Viola rotundifolia Xanthium sp. American dog violet Round-leaved yellow violet Cocklebur

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•	~	L)	-	n.	

	Table 3.			D.1		
	Herbaceous Species	Strata	Freq. (%)	Rel. Freq. (%)	•	
	Allium sp.	A B	6.67	2.27		
	Ammophila breviligulata	А В	6.67 -	2.27		
	Arisaema sp.	А В	33.33	6.02		
	Arisaema atrorubens	A B	- 6.67	1.2		
	Arisaema triphyllum	A B	6.67	1.2		
	Aster sp.	A B	- 53.33	<u>-</u> 9.64		
	Aster sagittifolius	A · B	- 6.67	1.2		
·	Athyrium platyneuron	A B	6.67	1.2	÷	
o	Caltha palustris	A B	6.67 6.67	2.27		·
	Carex	A B	6.67 6.67	2.27	·	
	Cenchrus tribuloides	A B	6.67 -	2.27		
	Ceratophyllum demersum	A B	_ 6.67	1.2		
	Cryptotaenia canadensis	A B	6.67	1.2		
	Dentaria diphylla	A B	_ _ 20	3.61		
!						

Herbaceous Species	Strata	Freq. (%)	Rel. Freq. (%)	
Desmodium nudiflorum	А В	13.33	2.41	
Digitaria sp.	A B	6.67 -	2.27	
Diodia teres	А В	6.67 -	2.27	
Equisetum sp.	A B	- 6.67	1.2	
Erigeron canadensis	A B	6.67 -	2.27	
Eupatorium sp.	A / B	6.67 6.67	2.27	
Euphorbia maculata	A B	6.67 -	2.27	
Fragaria virginiana	A B	13.33	2.41	
Galearis spectabilis	A B	- 6.67	1.2	
Galium sp.	A B	13.33 33.33	4.54 6.02	
Galium circaezans	A B	_ 26.67	4.82	
Hibiscus moscheutos	A B	33.33	11.36	
Impatiens capensis	A B	 13.33	2.41	
Lathyrus japonicus	A B	6.67 —	2.27	

	•	•				
	Table 3. Contin	ued.		Rel.		
	Herbaceous Species	Strata	Freq. (%)	Freq. (%)		
	Lemna sp.	A B	20 -	6.82		
	Lemna minor	A B	6.67 -	2.27		
	Lemna trisulca	A B	46.67	15.9		
	Lycopodium obscurum	A B	6.67	1.2		
	Menispermum canadense	А В	6.67	2.27	,	
	Mitchella repens	A B	26.67 6.67	9.09		
	Oxalis sp.	А В	 - 6.67	1.2		
	Phragmites australis	A B	13.33	4.54		٠ -
	Podophyllum peltatum	A B	33.33	6.02		•
	Polygonum persicaria	. А В	- 6.67	1.2		
	Polystichum acrostichoides	А В	26.67	4.82		
	Ranunculus sp.	А В	 	3.61		
	Ranunculus abortivus	A B	20	3.61		r.
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, ,					
	Table 3. Continu	ied.		Rel.	
	Herbaceous Species	Strata	Freq. (%)	Freq. (%)	
	Ranunculus septentrionalis	А В	- 6.67	1.2	
	Saururus cernuus	A B	13.33	2.41	
	Scirpus sp.	A B	6.67 —	2.27	
•	Sporobolus sp.	A B	6.67 -	2.27	
	Symplocarpus foetidus	A B	13.33	2.41	
	Tovara virginiana	A B	_ 13.33	2.41	
	Typha angustifolia	A B	20 -	6.82	
•	Typha latifolia	A B	6.67 —	2.27	•
	Viola sp.	A B	6.67 46.67	2.27 8.43	
	Viola conspera	A B	20	3.61	
ž.	Viola rotundifolia	A B	- 6.67	1.2	
	Xanthium	A B	6.67 —	2.27	٠

. Table 4.

List of trees, shrubs and vines inventoried on permanent plots at Flag Ponds Nature Park, Calvert County, Maryland, 1990.

Latin Name

Acer rubrum Amelanchier sp. Asimina triloba Campsis radicans Carpinus carolinia Carya glabra Cephalanthus occidentalis Cornus florida Cornus stolonifera Diospyros virginiana Euonymus americanus Fagus grandifolia Fraxinus pennsylvanica Ilex opaca Ilex verticillata Juniperus virginiana Kalmia latifolia Lindera benzoin Liquidambar styraciflua Liriodendron tulipifera Lonicera japonica Myrica cerifera Nyssa sylvatica Ostrya virginiana Parthenocissus quinquefolia Pinus rigida Pinus taeda Pinus virginiana Platanus occidentalis Prunus serotina Prunus virginiana Quercus sp. Quercus alba Quercus falcata Quercus marylandica Quercus phellos Quercus prinus Quercus rubra Rhus copallina Rhus radicans Robinia pseudo-acacia Salix nigra Sambucus canadensis Sassafrass albidum Smilax rotundifolia Ulmus americana Vaccinium corymbosum Viburnum acerifolium

Viburnum prunifolium

Vitis sp.

Common Name

Red Maple Shadbush Pawpaw Trumpet Creeper American hornbeam Pignut hickory Button bush Flowering dogwood Red osier Common persimmon Strawberry bush Beech Green ash American holly Black alder Red cedar Mountain laurel Spicebush Sweet gum Tulip tree Japanese honeysuckle Wax-myrtle Black gum Ironwood Virginia Creeper Pitch pine Loblolly pine Virginia Pine Sycamore Black cherry Choke Cherry 0ak White oak Spanish oak Black jack oak Willow oak Chestnut oak Red oak Dwarf sumac Poison ivy Black locust Black willow Common elder Sassafrass Common greenbrier American elm Highbush blueberry Maple-leaved viburnum Blackhaw

Grape

Table 5.

	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1					
.04	11		9	333.3	ВА	raxinus ennsylvan
. 88	10	νω		333	A B	difol
3.65 1.77	3.03	00		1833.33	В В	uonymus mericanu
.94	11.	6	• 	66.6	A B	iospyros irginiana
.08	110	1 6	1 1 1	100	A B	ornus tolonif
0	121		• 1	2833.33	A B	ornus lorida
.02	10		1 1 9	166.6	A	I Q O
.72	12	1 4 1		iω	A B	arya labra
1.9		N	0.6	0 0 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	A B	arya p.
i • 1 i ∞	i N	40			A	nt.
7.3	110	1 1 0	8 .5	1666.6	A B	ampsis adican
2 . 8	3.03 10.42	100	2.56 16.82		A B	simina riloba
-7	10	ω • ω	· ω	100	A	melan
96	100 1	9 1	8	6666.33	A	rum
1 60	Rel. Freq.	Freq.	Rel Density	i \s	Strata	oody 7m

Table 5. Continued.

Woody Species <7m tall	Strata	Density (#/ha)	∽¤ e	(%) 1,0%)	Rel. I	mportance Value
1		 	11	11	1.1	
exaca	В	66.	0	i ω ω	101	48
exicil	В	250	2 8	1 6	1.	7.92
niperus rginiana	В	166_67	0.85	6.67	3.03	1.94
lmia tifolia	В	33.	1.4	16	0	.75
ndera nzoin	В	333.3	. 7	36.6	NO.	۱۰۰۰
ģui Yra	въ	333	000		6.06 1.04	7.31
rica rifera	В	66.6	1 1 00	1 2		.95
ssa Ivati	B	166.67	0.85	1 1 •	3.03	1.94
trya rginiana	B	• 1	i • 1	• .	•	0.63
rth	A	66.6	9		1.04	1.5
nus eda	AB	66.6	1 00	1.6	110	.94
Prunus serotina	A	666.67	3.42	6.67	3.03	3.22
unus, rgini	B			i či i		.7
ercus	B	166.	i N	6.6	0	1.0
er	A B	66.	1 • 1	1.	io:	. 63

Table 5. Continued

Woody Species <7m tall	strata	sit /ha			1 % @ L	rtan
uercus alcata	AB	166.67		6.67		94 63
ercu rila	В	33.	-7	1.6	1.	I• ω
rcu	A	500	0.68	ω	2.08	1.38
	В	66.6	2	6	. 0	. 63
s allin	въ	166.67	0.85	6.67	3.03	94
	В	0 1		6.67 13.33	3.03	.72
ix	В	50	់ចា	1.0	1.	79
rd sa pr	B	333.33	0.45	13.33	2.08	1.27
milax otund	В	66.6	. 7	ω 	2	.46
lmus merica	В	333	1.71	13.33	1	88
acc	A B	166.67	0.23	6.67	_ ' :	0.63
iburnu cerifo	B	250	ω	· 3	2	.31
iburnum runifoli	A	166.67 166.67	0.85 0.23	6.67 6.67	3.03 1.04	634
	B	50	1 5 1	1 6 1		-7
Stand	В	19500 73330.33				

3	inus igida	strya irginia	yssa Ylvatic	iriodendr ulipifera	iquidambar tyraciflua	C X D 	raxinus ennsylvan	agus randifol	icgi	orn	arya labra	ar	simin rilob	cer	Woody Species >7m tall	
	B	A ·	B B	A B	A B	A B	A B	B B	A B	A B	A B	В	A B	BA!	Strata	
	1.33	1 1 1	0.13	 	3.33	1.9	4.53	•	1 • 1	6		1 •	• -	1.47	Basal Area (m/ha)	
	10.61	i	1.04	10	26.58 13.99	1.0	36.15 9.59	<u>ιωι</u>	4-1	i 🖰 🗀	1 . 1				Rel. B.A.	
			14.85	4.2	76.39 127.32	7.	89.13 48.81	1.8	1.0	89.12 89.13	12	I N	i • 1	89.13 48.81	i a t t	
	1 1.		4.63	1.4	23.84	0 1		141	10	1.76	1.6		$\frac{1}{\omega}$	7.	Reli Density	
	1.0	6.6		ιω •		ιω Ιω	24	6	9.0	100	6.6	16	0.1	53.33	req	
	6,25	• 0	12.5	1.6	ı •	• 4		10	10	1	10	• F	10	• • 1	req (%)	
	1 1	1.4	100	0.0	25.14 16.27	6.3	1 75	151	•	1.62	• ∞	1 • I	10 1 · 1	21.9 7.01	%E T	4
	23.09	 	10.69	3.8	IOO	1.65	40	0.6	! ! !	101	1 10	1 • 1	 	1 0 4 1	<u>ו</u>	

Stand	Ulmuș americana	ibi	igr igr	107	uercu ubra	rinus uėrcus	uercu arila	uercu alcat	uercu lba	runus irginiana	Platanus occidentalis	inus	Pinus taeda	able 6. oody pecies 7m tall
ВА	A B	A	A	A B	B	A B	A	A B	A B	A B	ВА	ВА	A	Continued. Strata
12.53 30.53	1 1 1	0.13		1111	1 • 1	0.53	0.13	21	.1	0.93	0.13	• 1	1.07 1.07	Basal Area (m/ha)
	1 1 1 1 1 1	4.26	1.06		3.05	0.33	0	8	1.4	3.05	1.06	1.73	9.58 3.58	Rel. (%)
320.43 649.35	5.03 4.24	2	10.61	• •	• 1	• 1		2	<u>.</u> 1	12-73	1 1	4.24	21.22	Density (#/ha)
. •	1.57 0.65	o	·ω		ω				ωi	1.96	1 1	0.65	6.62 0.98	Relity
	6.66 6.67	(a) 1	1.6	16 1	6 1			6	6.6	33.33		ω • υ	.	
	3.13 1.09	• 1	3-13	10	0	1.09		0	0	5.43		2.17		Rel.
	1.57 0.58	• ယ	1 22 5	• 4	• 4	1.05		ω •	6	3.48	0.35		251	Importance Value (%)
22.32 24.47		20	12.65		4.1	56.57		40	11	30.55	1 1 1	1 1 1	46	D.B.H (CM)

included therein are stand basal area [FEx;/n], stand density [Σy_1 /an], and stand quadratic average diameter at breast height [$\sqrt{4R^2\Sigma x_1}/\Sigma y_1$].

Ten additional plant species were observed off of the permanent plots during the inventory. These species are given in Table 7. Seven species of amphibians, six species of reptiles, 30 species of birds, and seven species of mammals were also observed. Amphibians and reptiles are listed in Table 8 whereas birds and mammals are listed in Tables 9 and 10, respectively. Of these, Accipiter striatus and Haliaeetus leucocephalus (Table 9) are considered rare in Maryland. The latter species is also listed as State Endangered and Federal Endangered.

Conclusions

The information presented herein, coupled with the natural resource plates, should allow staff in the Department of Planning and Zoning and the Division of Natural Resources to objectively evaluate some of the effects of future land-use changes at Flag Ponds Natural Area. However, the results of some additional work would be useful. The proposed work includes:

- 1. Future visits to plot J-10 during the 1991 growing season to verify the presence of <u>Aster sagittifolius</u>.
- 2. Additional standardized plant inventory work within strata A and B. These data would allow for the statistical differentiation of plant communities and subsquent mapping of plant community boundaries. The natural resource plate depicting vegetation/habitat types illustrates gross physiognomy which may not correlate well with floristic differences between communities.
- 3. An effort should be made to evaluate the effects of future development in the park on forest interior bird species. These species include Empidponax virescens, Vireo olivaceus, Mniotilta varia, Parula americana, Seiurus motacilla, Seiurus aurocapillus, Oporornis formosus, and Piranga olivacea. <a href="Forest interior bird species are negatively affected by forest fragmentation and the creation of edge habitat.
- 4. Using the park base map, soils map, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory map, and aerial photography, an effort should be made to develop a quantitative history of beach erosion just south of Long Beach. It appears as though structures intalled to protect shoreline property in Long Beach are causing accelerated erosion of the park's northernmost shoreline.

Table 7.

Additional herbaceous plants observed at Flag Ponds, Calvert County, Maryland, 1990, that were not located on permanent plots.

Latin Name

Maianthemum canadense
Sanguinaria canadensis
Botrychium sp.
Aquilegia canadensis
Peltandra virginica
Althea officinalis
Cypripedium acaule
Monarda sp.
Chenopodium album
Epigaea repens

Common Name

Two-leaved solomon's seal
Bloodroot
Moonwort
Wild columbine
Arrow-arum
Marshmallow
Pink lady's-slipper
Horsemint
Lamb's quarters
Trailing arbutus
unidentified grasses
unidentified mosses

Table 8.

List of amphibians and reptiles observed at Flag Ponds, Calvert County, Maryland, 1990. Additional species observed between 1985-1989 are indicated by \star .

Latin Name	Common Name	Strata
Amphibians		
Ambystoma maculata Hyla cinerea Hyla crucifer Hyla chrysoscelis Pseudacris triseriata feriarum Rana catesbeiana Rana utricularia	Spotted salamander Green tree frog Spring peeper Gray tree frog Upland chorus frog Bull frog Southern leopard frog	A A B B A A
Reptiles		
Agkistrodon contortrix Chelydra serpentina Cnemidophorus sexlineatus Eumeces laticeps Scincella lateralis Terrapene carolina	Northern Copperhead Common Snapping Turtle Six-lined Race Runner Five-lined Skink Ground Skink Eastern Box Turtle	A* A A A* A,B

Table 9.
List of birds observed at Flag Ponds, Calvert County, Maryland, 1990.

		
Latin Name	Common Name	Strata
Accipiter striatus	Sharp-shinned hawk	В
Pandion haliaetus	Osprey	A
Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Bald eagle	A
Anas platyrhynchos	Mallard	A
Ardea herodias	Great blue heron	A
Butorides striatus	Green-backed heron	A
Meleagris gallopavo	Wild turkey	A,B
Charadrius vociferus	Killdeer	A
Archilochus colubris	Ruby-throated hummingbir	d B
Melanerpes carolinus	Red-bellied woodpecker	В
Empidponax virescens	Acadian flycatcher	A
Contopus virens	Eastern Wood-peewee	A,B
Progne subis	Purple Martin	Α
Corvus ossifragus	Fish crow	A
Parus carolinensis	Carolina chickadee	В
Parus bicolor	Tufted titmouse	В
Thryothorus ludovicianus	Carolina wren	В .
Polioptila caerulea	Blue-gray gnatcatcher	$A_{f}B$
Vireo griseus	White-eyed vireo	A
Vireo olivaceus	Red-eyed vireo	A,B
Mniotilta varia	Black-and-white warbler	В
Parula americana	Northern parula	A,B
Dendroica pinus	Pine warbler	A,B
Seiurus motacilla	Louisiana waterthrush	В
Seiurus aurocapillus	Ovenbird	В
Oporornis formosus	Kentucky warbler	В
Agelaius phoeniceus	Red-winged blackbird	Α
Quiscalus quiscula	Common grackle	Α
Piranga olivacea	Scarlet tanager	A,B
Carduelis tristis	American goldfinch	A

Table 10.

List of mammals observed at Flag Ponds, Calvert County, Maryland, 1990.

Sylvilagus floridanus Sciurus carolinensis Ondatra zibethicus Vulpes vulpes Procyon lotor Mustela vison Odocoileus virginianus Eastern cottontail Gray squirrel Muskrat Red fox Raccoon Mink White-tailed deer PROPOSAL FOR NATURAL RESOURCES MAPPING
AND STUDIES OF FLORISTICS AND
PLANT PHYSIOGNOMY AT FLAG PONDS NATURAL AREA
CALVERT COUNTY, MARYLAND

John E. Hench, Ph.D. 4313 Wendy Court Monrovia, Maryland 21770

GOAL

To acquire natural resources data necessary to objectively assess impacts of development in Flag Ponds Natural Area, Calvert County, Maryland.

OBJECTIVES

To prepare 1" = 200' scale natural resources plates for Flag Ponds Natural Area including (1) topography with existing development, (2) soils, (3) slope, (4) wetlands, 100 year floodplain, and major drainage divides, (5) black-and-white leaf-on and leaf-off aerial photography, and (6) plant communities.

To describe the floristics and physiognomy of major plant communities at Flag Ponds Natural Area.

To establish a permanent plot system at Flag Ponds Natural Area.

BACKGROUND

Flag Ponds Natural Area encompasses 327 acres on the Western Shore of Chesapeake Bay. The site is considered "the most environmentally sensitive, diverse, and unique area in the region (Calvert County Board of Commissioners, 1984:2)." Topographically, the park is separated into two distinct areas: a broad, low lying, actively accreting, sandy cape and a severely eroded and disected upland terrace. A steep cliff, 80 to 100 feet above sea level and oriented in a north-south direction, demarcates a boundary between the two areas. Land to the west of the cliffs drains to St. Leonard's Creek and Patuxtent River whereas land to the east drains directly to Chesapeake Bay. Bathymetry has shown that a large shoal, ranging 200 feet out at the northern end to 1000 feet out at the southern end, is developing off-shore of the southward accreting cape (Calvert County Board of Commissioners, 1984). At present, the shoal is exposed during extremely low tides. Future enlargement of the shoal should result in formation of a new pond east of the existing beach.

Hill (1987) notes that Flag Ponds Natural Area encompasses four major community types: (1) tidal saline bay, (2) interdunal — including pond, marsh, and swamp, (3) accreting sandy beach, and (4) upland deciduous forest. Two State Endangered species, Star duckweed (Lemna trisulca) and Northeastern Beach Tiger-beetle (Cincindela d. dorsalis), are known from the site. The former species is a Federal

candidate for Threatened or Endangered status. Shorebirds, osprey
(Pandion haliaetus), colonial waterbirds, and waterfowl use Flag
Ponds seasonally. Numerous species of forest interior birds -including Red-shouldered Hawk (<u>Buteo lineatus</u>), Red-eyed Vireo (<u>Vireo olivaceus</u>), and Scarlet Tanager (<u>Piranga olivacea</u>) -- nest in the upland deciduous forest.

A Master Plan for Flag Ponds Natural Area was approved by the Board of County Commissioners, Calvert County, in November, 1984. The document outlines three phases of planned development. Phases I (FY 85,86) and II (FY 87,88,89) include entrance road improvements, security gates, parking, security residence, loop road system, emergency access road to the beach, visitor center with restrooms, fishing pier, bathhouse, boardwalk, and trails. As of autumn 1989, Phases I and II had been largely completed. Additional parking, trails, primitive camping areas, and picnic facilities are planned for Phase III in FY 90 and 91.

METHODS

Preparation of Natural Resource Plates

Project Grid and Base Map

The Project Consultant (Dr. John E. Hench) will provide Photo Science, Inc., Gaithersburg, Maryland, with 1" = 200' scale topographic maps of Flag Ponds Natural Area, 1" = 1,320' scale soils maps (Matthews, 1971), and a 1" = 2,000' scale U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory Map for the Cove Point Quadrangle. Photo Science, Inc., will identify Maryland State Plane Grid coordinates on the original map. Coordinates for the project area will be established jointly by Photo Science, Inc., the Project Consultant, and Calvert County staff.

In order to ensure proper registration of all map products, a project grid with a grid interval of 5.0 inches will be set up on a Wild TA2 plotting table. The project grid will be punch registered with a seven hole punch; all subsquent map products will employ a matching set of punch register holes.

The original topographic map will be checked for accuracy by comparing coordinate values on the original map to those on the project grid. Photo Science, Inc., will then add a neat line, map title, scale, and north arrow using scribe-coat plates and produce a composite positive of the base map on 0.004 inch Mylar drafting film. The composite will be sumbitted to the Project Consultant for review and editing.

Aerial Photography

The Project Consultant will obtain most recent high altitude black-and-white leaf-on and leaf-off aerial photography from Air Photographics, Inc., Martinsburg, West Virginia. Photography will be enlarged to 1" = 200' on 0.004 inch Mylar and used to delineate existing development and plant community boundaries.

Soils and Wetlands

Appropriate sections of soils and wetlands maps will be enlarged to 1" = 200' and carefully matched to the base map. A composite positive, including neatline, project grid, and registration, will be produced for each on 0.004 inch Mylar. The Project Consultant will review and edit this material.

Slope, Drainage, and Plant Communities

Photo Science, Inc., will provide the Project Consultant with blank sheets of punch registered Mylar. The Project Consultant will use these sheets to develop interpretive plates for slope, drainage with 100 year floodplain, and plant communities in pencil. Completed tracings will be returned to Photo Science, Inc., for the next production phase.

Preparation of Descriptive Legends

Legends describing mapped attributes will be designed by Photo Science, Inc., and the Project Consultant. Completed art work will be submitted to Calvert County staff for review and editing.

Production of Scribe-coat Films

Photo Science, Inc., will transfer information from the pencil tracings to punch registered, stable-base, scribecoat film. Completed scribe-coat films, with the corresponding tracing, will be submitted to the Project Consultant for review and editing.

Production of Peel-coat Films

To facilitate delineation of broad areas of tone on final map sheets, photosensitive peel-coat films will be produced. The peel-coat sheets are punch registered and exposed using an edited, corrected scribe-coat. After exposure and development, the peel-coat film is laid over the original pencil tracings and selected areas of final map sheets a halftone screen tint will be exposed into the "window" areas. Completed peel-coat films will be submitted to the Project Consultant for review and editing.

Production of Final Positive Map Sheets

Photo Science, Inc., will produce final maps at 1" = 200' on 36 x 44 inch sheets of photosensitive Mylar. Final sheets will include a neat line, Annotated State Plane Grid, and park boundary. Sheets will depict the scribe-coat for each resource attribute and the accompanying peel-coat films. Appropriate legend blocks will be added to each sheet in a non-image area. Security negatives will be produced for each sheet at 1" = 200' scale thereby facilitating production of future copies with increased efficiency and reduced cost. Calvert County will receive all maps and negatives.

Descriptions of Floristics and Physiognomy

The Project Consultant and Field Ecologist (James M. Hill) will jointly develop descriptions of floristics and physiognomy for Flag Ponds Natural Area. A description of the methodology follows.

A Geological Survey 7.5' topographic map and Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory map were used to establish two strata for field sampling. Strata I included areas of the park greater than 25 feet in elevation; Strata II included areas less than 25 feet in elevation. A 1" = 200' scale base map of Flag Ponds Natural Area was then gridded at 500 foot intervals based on the Maryland State Plane Grid. Grid columns were labeled A through L; rows were labeled 1 through 11. The grid yielded 30 points (grid intersections) in Strata I and 25 points in Strata II. Fifteen points were then randomly selected from each strata for field sampling. The following information will be collected at each of the 30 points:

Tree species: The basal area, density, frequency, quadratic average diameter at breast height, and importance value of tree species will be obtained with a method of forest sampling developed by Eichenberger et al. (1982). A Cruise Master 4.9 feet square/acre (two meters square/hectare) amber thin prism will be used for point and plot tallies. Plot radius will be 32.8 feet (10 meters) from the sampling point. Borderline trees will be counted as one half.

Shrub species: All shrub species [woody vegetation less than 21 feet (6.4 meters) tall] present on a 13.2 foot (4 meter) square plot oriented on the southeast corner of the sampling point will be recorded. Shrub species cover will be presented as both absolute and relative frequency.

Herbaceous species: All herbaceous species present on two 3.3 foot (one meter) square plots oriented in the northeast and southwest corners of the shrub plot will be recorded. Herb plots will be surveyed during the spring and again one or more times during the summer. Herbaceous species cover will be presented as both absolute and relative frequency.

Information from the plant survey as well as a Geological Survey .7.5' topographic map, Calvert County soils maps (Matthews 1971), a Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory map, and high altitude black-and-white leaf-on and leaf-off aerial photography will be used to delineate major plant community boundaries.

Permanent Plots

A permanent plot will be jointly established at each sampling point by the Project Consultant and Field Ecologist during the course of the plant survey. Each of the 30 plots will be permanently marked with either metal tags nailed to trees or six foot metal stakes driven into the ground and referenced to the Maryland State Plane Grid.

SCHEDULE

Work Products	Projected Completion		
Base map, aerial photography, soils map, and wetlands map.	June 1, 1990		
Slope map, drainage map with 100 year floodplain, and plant communities map.	July 1, 1990		
Descriptions of floristics and physiognomy, permanent plot set up, and final report.	September 30, 1990		

BUDGET

<u>Task</u>	<u>Project</u> <u>Consultant</u>	Photo Sci., Inc.	<u>Field</u> <u>Ecologist</u>	<u>Calvert</u> <u>County</u>
Coordination	\$1,000			
Mapping	\$6,000	\$6,000		
Floristics & Physiognomy	\$3,750		\$3,750	
Permanent Plots	\$ 500	•	\$ 500	
Equipment, aerial photos, misc. expenses				\$2,500

LITERATURE CITED

Board of County Commissioners, Calvert County, Maryland. 1984. Flag Ponds Natural Area Master Plan. Department of Planning and Zoning. Prince Frederick, Maryland. 23pp.

Hill, James M. 1987. Description of Critical Area Natural Heritage Area 12: Flag Ponds, Calvert County, Maryland. Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Natural Heritage Program. Annapolis. 10 pp. + 18 sheets.

Matthews, E. D. 1971. Soil Survey, Calvert County, Maryland. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service. 36pp. + 36 sheets.

APPENDIX A

Plant Species Composition for the Permanent Plots Flag Ponds Natural Area, Calvert County, Maryland

Flag Ponds Natural Area, Calvert County, Maryland. Plants located on permanent plot # A/G-2, 1990.

Herbaceous species

Hibiscus moscheutos Lemna sp. Lemna trisulca Phragmites australis

Woody species

Acer rubrum

Flag Ponds Natural Area, Calvert County, Maryland. Plants located on permanent plot # A/G-4, 1990.

Herbaceous species

Hibiscus moscheutos Lemna sp. Lemna trisulca Typha angustifolia

Woody species

Cephalanthus occidentalis

Flag Ponds Natural Area, Calvert County, Maryland. Plants located on permanent plot # A/H-3, 1990.

Herbaceous species

Hibiscus moschuetos Lemna trisulca Typha angustifolia

Woody species

none present

Flag Ponds Natural Area, Calvert County, Maryland. Plants located on permanent plot # A/H-4, 1990.

Herbaceous species

Hibiscus moscheutos Lemna sp. Lemna trisulca

Woody species

Acer rubrum Fraxinus pennsylvanica Liquidambar styraciflua

Flag Ponds Natural Area, Calvert County, Maryland. Plants located on permanent plot # A/I-5, 1990.

Herbaceous species

Lemna trisulca

Woody species

Acer rubrum Cornus stolonifera Fraxinus pennsylvanica Liquidambar styraciflua

Flag Ponds Nature Park, Calvert County, Maryland. Plants located on permanent plot # A/I-6, 1990.

Herbaceous species

none present

Woody species

Acer rubrum Fraxinus pennsylvanica Liquidambar styraciflua Ulmus americana

Flag Ponds Nature Park, Calvert County, Maryland. Plants located on permanent plot # A/I-7, 1990.

Herbaceous species

none present

***,

Woody species

Acer rubrum
Fraxinus pennsylvanica
Ilex verticillata
Liquidambar styraciflua
Platanus occidentalis
Ulmus americana

Flag Ponds Natural Area, Calvert County, Maryland. Plants located on permanent plot # A/J-5, 1990.

Herbaceous species

Phragmites australis

Woody species

none present

Flag Ponds Natural Area, Calvert County, Maryland. Plants located on permanent plot # A/J-7, 1990.

Herbaceous species

Eupatorium sp.
Hibiscus moscheutos
Lemna trisulca
Typha angustifolia
Typha latifolia

Woody species

Acer rubrum
Cephalanthus occidentalis
Fraxinus pennsylvanica
Liquidambar styraciflua
Nyssa sylvatica
Salix nigra
Viburnum prunifolium

Flag Ponds Natural Area, Calvert County, Maryland. Plants located on permanent plot # A/J-8, 1990.

Herbaceous species

Lemna trisulca

Woody species

Acer rubrum
Campsis radicans
Fraxinus pennsylvanica
Liquidambar styraciflua
Nyssa sylvatica
Rhus radicans
Smilax rotundifolia

Flag Ponds Natural Area, Calvert County, Maryland. Plants located on permanent plot # A/K-6, 1990.

Herbaceous species

Allium sp.
Galium sp.
Menispermum canadense

Woody species

Campsis radicans
Cornus florida
Fraxinus pennsylvanica
Liquidambar styraciflua
Myrica cerifera
Nyssa sylvatica
Parthenocissus quinquifolia
Pinus taeda
Rhus radicans

Flag Ponds Natural Area, Calvert County, Maryland. Plants located on permanent plot # A/K-7, 1990.

Herbaceous species

Lemna minor

Woody species

Fraxinus pennsylvanica

Flag Ponds Natural Area, Calvert County, Maryland. Plants located on permanent plot # A/K-8, 1990.

Herbaceous species

Carex sp. Galium sp.

Woody species

Asimina triloba
Fagus grandifolia
Liquidambar styraciflua
Myrica cerifera
Nyssa sylvatica
Pinus rigida
Pinus taeda
Platanus occidentalis
Quercus marilandica
Rhus copallina
Ulmus americana
Vitis sp.

Flag Ponds Natural Area, Calvert County, Maryland. Plants located on permanent plot # A/K-9, 1990.

Herbaceous species

Mitchella repens Viola sp.

Woody species

Diospyros virginiana
Euonymus americanus
Fagus grandifolia
Fraxinus pennsylvanica
Juniperus virginiana
Lindera benzoin
Liquidambar styraciflua
Myrica cerifera
Nyssa sylvatica
Pinus rigida
Pinus taeda
Quercus falcata

Flag Ponds Natural Area, Calvert County, Maryland. Plants located on permanent plot # A/L-9, 1990.

Herbaceous species

none present

Woody species

none present

Flag Ponds Natural Area, Calvert County, Maryland. Plants located on permanent plot # B/B-5, 1990.

Herbaceous species

Aster sp.
Ceratophyllum demersum
Equisetum sp.
Galium sp.
Impatiens capensis
Podophyllum peltatum
Polygonum persicaria
Ranunculus sp.
Saururus cernuus
Symplocarpus foetidus
Tovara virginiana
Viola sp.

Woody species

Acer rubrum
Asimina triloba
Carpinus caroliniana
Cornus florida
Fraxinus pennsylvanica
Ilex opaca
Lindera benzoin
Liquidambar styraciflua
Liriodendron tulipifera
Prunus virginiana
Ulmus americana

Flag Ponds Natural Area, Calvert County, Maryland. Plants located on permanent plot # B/C-5, 1990.

Herbaceous species

Arisaema atrorubens Arisaema triphyllum Aster sp. Desmodium nudiforum Fragaria virginiana Galearis spectabilis Galium circaezans Podophyllum peltatum Ranunculus arbortivus Viola sp.

Woody species

Acer rubrum
Asimina triloba
Carpinus caroliniana
Carya glabra
Fagus grandifolia
Ilex opaca
Lindera benzoin
Liquidambar styraciflua
Liriodendron tulipifera
Nyssa sylvatica
Quercus prinus
Viburnum acerifolium

Flag Ponds Natural Area, Calvert County, Maryland. Plants located on permanent plot # B/C-6, 1990.

Herbaceous species

Arisaema sp.
Aster sp.
Caltha palustris
Cryptotaenia canadensis
Impatiens capensis
Ranunculus sp.
Ranunculus arbortivus
Ranunculus septentrionalis
Saururus cernuus
Symplocarpus foetides
Tovara virginiana
Viola sp.

Woody species

Acer rubrum
Asimina triloba
Carpinus caroliniana
Fagus grandifolia
Fraxinus pennsylvanica
Lindera benzoin
Liquidambar styraciflua
Nyssa sylvatica
Rhus radicans
Smilax rotundifolia

Flag Ponds Natural Area, Calvert County, Maryland. Plants located on permanent plot # B/E-5, 1990.

Herbaceous species

Mitchella repens

Woody species

Acer rubrum
Amelanchior sp.
Carpinus caroliniana
Cornus florida
Fagus grandifolia
Ilex opaca
Liquidambar styraciflua
Liriodendron tulipifera
Nyssa sylvatica
Pinus virginiana
Prunus virginiana
Quercus falcata
Viburnum acerifolium

Flag Ponds Natural Area, Calvert County, Maryland. Plants located on permanent plot # B/E-6, 1990.

Herbaceous species

Alium sp.
Arisaema sp.
Aster sp.
Desmodium nudiforum
Podophyllum peltatum
Polystichum acrostichoides
Viola conspera

Woody species

Acer rubrum
Asimina triloba
Carpinus caroliniana
Cornus florida
Fagus grandifolia
Ilex opaca
Liquidambar styraciflua
Liriodendron tulipifera
Prunus virginiana
Quercus rubra
Viburnum acerifolium

Flag Ponds Natural Area, Calvert County, Maryland. Plants located on permanent plot # B/F-3, 1990.

Herbaceous species

Arisaema sp.
Aster sp.
Dentaria diphylla
Galium sp.
Podophyllum peltatum
Polystichum acrostichoides
Ranunculus arbortivus
Viola rotundifolia

Woody species

Asimina triloba
Carpinus caroliniana
Cornus florida
Fagus grandifolia
Fraxinus pennsylvanica
Liquidambar styraciflua
Liriodendron tulipifera
Prunus virginiana
Quercus rubra

Flag Ponds Natural Area, Calvert County, Maryland. Plants located on permanent plot # B/F-4, 1990.

Herbaceous species

Arisaema sp.
Aster sp.
Athyrium platynueron
Dentaria diphylla
Galium sp.
Mitchella repens
Oxalis sp.

Woody species

Acer rubrum
Asimina triloba
Carpinus caroliniana
Carya glabra
Cornus florida
Fagus grandifolia
Liquidambar styraciflua
Liriodendron tulipifera
Prunus virginiana
Quercus falcata
Quercus rubra
Viburnum acerifolium

Flag Ponds Natural Area, Calvert County, Maryland. Plants located on permanent plot # B/F-5, 1990.

Herbaceous species

Mitchella repens

Woody species

Acer rubrum
Asimina triloba
Carya glabra
Cornus florida
Fagus grandifolia
Ilex opaca
Liquidambar styraciflua
Liriodendron tulipifera
Pinus virginiana
Prunus virginiana
Quercus alba
Quercus falcata
Quercus prinus
Quercus rubra
Sassafrass albidum
Smilax rotundifolia

Flag Ponds Natural Area, Calvert County, Maryland. Plants located on permanent plot # B/H-7, 1990.

Herbaceous species

Carex sp.
Galium circaezans
Polystichum acrostichoides

Woody species

Acer rubrum Asimina triloba Carpinus caroliniana Carya glabra Cornus florida Fagus grandifolia Ilex opaca Kalmia latifolia Liquidambar styraciflua Liriodendron tulipifera Pinus taeda Prunus virginiana Quercus alba Quercus prinus Sassafrass albidum Viburnum prunifolium

Flag Ponds Natural Area, Calvert County, Maryland. Plants located on permanent plot # B/H-8, 1990.

Herbaceous species

Viola sp.

Woody species

Acer rubrum
Amelanchior sp.
Carya glabra
Cornus florida
Ilex opaca
Liquidambar styraciflua
Liriodendron tulipifera
Parthenocissus quinquifolia
Prunus virginiana
Quercus falcata
Rhus radicans
Sassafrass albidum
Smilax rotundifolia
Viburnum acerifolium

Flag Ponds Natural Area, Calvert County, Maryland. Plants located on permanent plot # B/H-9, 1990.

Herbaceous species

Lycopodium obscurum Ranunculus sp.

Woody species

Acer rubrum Carpinus caroliniana Carya sp. Cornus florida Euonymus americanus Ilex opaca Liquidambar styraciflua Liriodendron tulipifera Ostrya virginiana Pinus taeda Pinus virginiana Prunus virginiana Quercus sp. Robinia pseudo-acacia Sassafrass albidum Smilax rotundifolia Vaccinium corumbosum

Flag Ponds Natural Area, Calvert County, Maryland. Plants located on permanent plot # B/H-10, 1990.

Herbaceous species

Caltha palustris Eupatorium sp.

Woody species

Acer rubrum
Asimina triloba
Cornus florida
Diospyros virginiana
Ilex opaca
Liquidambar styraciflua
Liriodendron tulipifera
Pinus taeda
Pinus virginiana
Prunus virginiana
Smilax rotundifolia

Flag Ponds Natural Area, Calvert County, Maryland. Plants located on permanent plot # B/I-8, 1990.

Herbaceous species

Arisaema sp.
Dentaria diphylla
Galium sp.
Galium circaezans
Podophyllum peltatum

Woody species

Asimina triloba
Cornus florida
Ilex opaca
Lindera benzoin
Liquidambar styraciflua
Liriodendron tulipifera
Parthenocissus quinquifolia
Pinus taeda
Prunus virginiana
Smilax rotundifolia

Flag Ponds Natural Area, Calvert County, Maryland. Plants located on permanent plot # B/I-10, 1990.

Herbaceous species

Allium sp.
Aster sp.
Fragaria virginiana
Galium circaezans
Viola sp.
Viola conspera

Woody species

Carpinus caroliniana
Cornus florida
Ilex opaca
Lindera benzoin
Liquidambar styraciflua
Liriodendron tulipifera
Prunus virginiana

Flag Ponds Natural Area, Calvert County, Maryland. Plants located on permanent plot # B/J-10, 1990.

Herbaceous species

Aster sp.
Aster sagittifolius
Mitchella repens
Polystichum acrostichoides
Viola sp.
Viola conspera

Woody species

Acer rubrum
Carpinus caroliniana
Carya glabra
Cornus florida
Ilex opaca
Liquidambar styraciflua
Liriodendron tulipifera
Prunus virginiana
Quercus rubra

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